

Appl. No. 09/488,469  
Amtd. Dated January 8, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 8, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 81752.0023  
Customer No.: 26021

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 18 and ending at page 20, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

*A1*

As shown in FIG. 1, the tape printing apparatus 1 is basically comprised of an operating block 11 having the keyboard 3 and the display 4 and interfacing with the user, a printer block 12 having a print head 7 of an ink jet type for printing on a tape T (printing tape T1) unwound from the tape cartridge 5, a cutter block 13 for cutting off the printed portion of the tape T, a sensor block 14 having various sensors for carrying out various detecting operations, a driving block 270 having drivers for driving circuits of blocks and devices, a power supply block 290, and a control block 200 for controlling operations of components of the tape printing apparatus 1 including the sensors and drivers. To implement the above construction, the apparatus accommodates a circuit board, not shown, in addition to the printer block 12, the cutter block 13, the sensor block 14 and so forth. On the circuit board are mounted the power supply block 290 and the circuits of the driving block 270 and the control block 200. The power supply unit of the power supply block 290 is connected to a connector socket connectable with an AC adapter and a battery, ~~such as a nicad battery, removably mounted from the outside of the apparatus, so as to supply power to the components of the tape printing apparatus 1.~~

*A2*

On page 95, please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A main image and a background ~~mage~~ image are formed using colors each defined by a set of n-valued basic color gradation values each having any one of n possible values (n is an integer equal to or larger than 3) and defining a gradation